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CAPITAL TEXANS

Dallas Man Holds Key Job With CIA

By LESLIE CARPENTER
Post Washington Staff

WASHINGTON—In Uncle Sam's cloak and dagger work, a Texan is a key man.

He is Lt Gen Charles Pearre Cabell of Dallas, who is deputy director of the government's supersecret, superimportant Central Intelligence Agency.

As might be expected, the friendly general is not a man to talk about his work. He can't, obviously.

"MY WIFE," he said, "has long since stopped ever asking me what went on at the office today."

Cabell, interviewed by a Post reporter in his large office with its absolutely paperless desk and walls covered with world maps, said, CIA "co-ordinates the intel- spends his 10 to 11-hour working day without letting the cat out of the bag about the hush-hush activities of CIA.

But, generally speaking, he said, CIA "co-ordinate the intelligence work of all the government, as well as co-ordinates certain services common to us all."

Cabell's desk didn't have one scrap of paper on it when the interview was conducted.

"I HAVE to keep my desk completely clean," Cabell explained, "because almost every piece of paper which comes into my hands is classified. I can't leave papers like that lying around—but I'll tell you that my drawers are filled, and so is that filing cabinet over there."

He pointed to a heavy steel filing cabinet equipped with a combination lock. It looked like a safe.

Virtually everything about CIA is classified. It's not known how many employees the agency has, what any of them do whether it operates the government's spy network or even how much money it spends.

Although many CIA employees are not permitted to say where they work, Cabell, of course, makes no secret of his position. And unlike many of the agency's employees, he has no objection to his photograph being published.

IT WOULD BE ridiculous for him to attempt to conceal his identity, he explained, when the law required the Senate to confirm his appointment which had been publicly made by the President.

CIA offices here are in several buildings which once housed a Navy hospital. They are plainly identified with a sign on the street, but policemen in every building forbid anyone to enter who doesn't belong there. The Post reporter was escorted into

LT GEN CHARLES CABELL
Can't Talk About Job

Cabell's office and then escorted out of the building again. That's the way the system works. No one wanders in and out alone.

Cabell, whose father, Ben E. Cabell, was mayor of Dallas, sheriff of Dallas and for a few years chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the State Prison System at Huntsville, is a career man in the military service who did not duplicate his father's interest in politics.

He has never voted in his life. His appointment to his present post, made by President Eisenhower, required a special act of Congress for a military man to hold it. But the appointment was strictly non-political, based on the ability Cabell had displayed in numerous key posts for the Defense Department.

CABELL, WHO is 50, attended both the Yalta and Potsdam conferences as strictly a military adviser. ("I had nothing to do with any political decision," he says.)

He directed operations and intelligence for Allied forces in the Mediterranean theatre in World War II. He was a military adviser at United Nations meetings. He was head of Air Force intelligence. And until this year he was head of the joint staff, which co-ordinates all the work for the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. In other words, he was head of all the wheels within the wheels.

Gen Walter Bedell Smith, new undersecretary of state, was director of CIA last year, and Allen Dulles, brother of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, was deputy director.

When President Eisenhower shifted Smith to the State Department, he elevated Dulles to the directorship of CIA. The President was impressed with the strong recommendations he had for Cabell because of his important Defense Department work, and he designated the Texan to be CIA deputy director.

CONGRESS HAD to pass a special law to permit a military officer to hold the post of deputy director. (The law provided only that the director could be a military man. Dulles is a civilian.) Although Cabell continues to hold the rank of lieutenant general, he wears civilian clothes.

Cabell, a cigar smoker, is medium in height and weight, and his blond hair is graying and thinning. The praise which his superiors have had for the work he has turned in in the intelligence field testifies to the brilliance of his mind.

Although Cabell is a serious-minded man, he is a good story teller and has a big supply of Texas stories. He is a proud Texan and visits the state when he has a chance. His wife, a beautiful brunette, is the former Jacklyn de Hymel of San Antonio.

He is a West Point man, the last Texas youth appointed to the U. S. Military Academy by the late Sen Charles Culberson before his death. Six years after he was commissioned and assigned to the field artillery, Cabell entered flying school, won his wings and started the climb up in the Air Force.

And while he can't talk much about the job he is in today, it is one of the most important there is to every American.

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